

Check Against Delivery

**Statement By Ambassador Paul Heinbecker Permanent Representative Of
Canada To The United Nations To The United Nations Security Council
Public Meeting On The Role Of The Un In Post-Conflict Situations**

New York, 30 April 2003

Mr. President,

The UN has been effective, even indispensable, in post-conflict development in Mozambique, Guatemala, Afghanistan, the Balkans and elsewhere.

It has guided and monitored political change (democracy and governance) in Bosnia, Kosovo and East Timor.

It has kept women's issues and interests on the agenda of change when they risked being set aside for a "later" that would never come in Afghanistan, Kosovo and East Timor.

It has protected children in conflict and in post-conflict stress, as UNICEF/USA reminded New York Times readers this morning.

The UN is bringing justice post-conflict to the repressed through ICTY, ICTR, and the nascent Sierra Leone court.

In each case, the role and the centrality of the UN has been different.

As Secretary General Annan said this morning, every conflict is different, every post-conflict is different, and each model of intervention by the international community is different.

In Iraq, we have an immediate post-conflict humanitarian and reconstruction challenge in front of us.

It is in everyone's interests, especially in the Iraqi people's interest, to ensure that Iraq becomes an economically functional, politically stable and self-governing state ... that is respectful of the rule of law, of democratic principles and of international norms.

The coalition nations currently controlling Iraqi territory have distinct responsibilities as occupying powers to maintain public order and safety, to protect civilians and to provide essential services.

The wider international community, especially the United Nations and IFIs, also have indispensable roles to play.

While systems are in place for humanitarian assistance, a framework is needed to facilitate greater engagement and support in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

The United Nations has extensive expertise that can and should be brought to bear.

The UN and its agencies have been heavily involved in Iraq since the first Gulf War, and have an in-depth understanding of the circumstances, and the challenges.

The UN is fully engaged through its agencies and has resources on the ground in Iraq, providing much-needed assistance to the Iraqi people.

UNICEF, UNDP, the WFP - know Iraq.

We need to build on the strength of the engagement of these and other UN agencies in Iraq, and determine how best we can make further use of this experience and expertise.

In Iraq, as in all post-conflict situations, our common over-arching goals must be to meet the needs of the people, and to support them in their course towards stability, recovery and reconstruction.

Towards these ends, our approach needs to be flexible and pragmatic.

Canada will put the interests of the Iraqi people at the heart of its decision-making.

Canada has allocated about \$75M US to humanitarian relief and reconstruction.

Prime Minister Chrétien announced yesterday that Canada will expand the role of three transport aircraft in the region to support immediate humanitarian and reconstruction efforts.

Canada is also prepared to make available police, correction and legal officers to provide assistance and advice on governance and security sector reform, as well as select units of Canada's disaster Assistance Response Team, if needed.

Two further points

- * do not draw lessons learned until the dust has settled
- * do not forget the crises in Africa

- * After Kosovo, many thought NATO would become Globocop, that the G-8 would supplant the Security Council, that the UN would be sidelined
- * But, in fact, the UN picked up the pieces in Kosovo, mandated the intervention in East Timor and has helped Afghanistan put itself back together
- * We need the Council to reunite for Iraq's sake
- * As for Africa, poverty, AIDS, drought are killing people there far from the media's eye
- * The African people need us as urgently today as they did on March 19
- * The war in Iraq has made them no less vulnerable
- * Let us make sure that it makes them no more vulnerable